

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /045 W

-----110910 170536Z /15

R 160811Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3592

INFO USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY LOME

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, GH, CU

SUBJ: 50 GHANAIS WILL ATTEND WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

1. SUMMARY: GHANA'S COMMISSIONER (MPHISTER) FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE WILL LEAD A 50-PERSON TEAM TO 11TH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN HAVANA. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ON MAY 12 THAT GHANA'S DELEGATION WILL BE MADE UP OF CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND STUDENT GROUPS. EXPLAINING GHANA'S ROLE IN POLITICAL PROGRAM, KWESI PRATT, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL, SAID POEMS, PROSE AND SPEECHES ON PAN-AFRICANISM, ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM WILL BE USED TO EXPRESS GHANA'S CONCERN FOR RECOGNITION OF EQUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. DELEGATION WILL TAKE PART IN FESTIVAL'S POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND STUDENT PROGRAMS BUT NOT IN SPORTS AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS. PRATT SAID THIS WAS THIRD TIME GHANA HAS PARTICIPATED IN FESTIVAL: FIRST WAS IN 1973 IN BERLIN, WHERE GHANA WON A GOLD MEDAL IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

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3. A TWO-MAN DELEGATION FROM FESTIVAL'S INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (OSVALDO DEYE OF CUBA, LEADER; TIerno SAIDU DIENG OF GUINEA, MEMBER) WERE IN GHANA FROM MAY 8-12 TO BRIEF GHANAIAN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. TEAM LEFT MAY 12 FOR SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS IN TOGO.

4. COMMENT: FESTIVAL HAS ATTRACTED SOME PRESS PLAY
BUT LITTLE REAL INTEREST HERE. A LOCAL COLUMNIST

LAST MONTH WARNED GHANA'S DELEGATION NOT TO MAKE THE
MISTAKES WHICH MARRED 1973 FESTIVAL IN BERLIN--E.G.,
FORGETTING TO BRING A GHANAIAN FLAG AND NOT KNOWING
THE NAME OF EITHER THE LEADER OF THE GHANAIAN
DELEGATION OR THE GDR HEAD OF STATE--AND URGED GOG
NOT TO SEND TO HAVANA "A LARGE NUMBER OF ELDERLY
PERSONS MASQUERADING UNDER THE CLOAK OF YOUTH."
COMMISSIONERS OF ACCRA AND UPPER REGIONS (ROUGHLY
EQUIVALENT TO STATE GOVERNORS) LENT SUPPORT TO FUND-
RAISING RALLIES FOR FESTIVAL IN EARLY MAY, BUT WE
DOUBT EITHER AREA MET ITS TARGETS (ABOUT \$17,000
FOR ACCRA REGION AND \$15,000 FOR UPPER REGION.)
ANOTHER COLUMNIST SUBSEQUENTLY APPEALED FOR
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BUT FUNDING PROBLEM STILL
APPEARS UNRESOLVED.

5. LEADER OF THIS YEAR'S DELEGATION, COMMISSIONER
FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE NII ANYETEI KWAKWRANYA,
IS A MEMBER OF RULING NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL
BUT NOT ONE OF ITS KEY PEOPLE. HOWEVER, SINCE HE IS
ALSO A LOCAL CHIEF, HE MAY HAVE BEEN A MORE
APPROPRIATE AND COLORFUL CHOICE THAN COMMISSIONER FOR
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EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE OSUSU-FORDWOUH, WHO IS
A FORMER ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. SMITH

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